REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are in the application of which claims 1, 11, and 20 are in independent form. Claim 1 is amended.

Claims 1-3, 8-12, 17-23 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by "Command Response Bus System with Inherent Fault-Isolation Features," by IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, August 1986 ("IBM"). For the following reasons, the rejections should be withdrawn.

Claims 4-7, 13-16, and 24-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over IBM.

IBM does not teach a truncated ring according to how the term is defined in the application. The concept of a truncated ring is explained on pages 7-8 of the application. For example, note the following from page 7, lines 13-22:

"FIG. 10 illustrates a system 100 which is a truncated ring including integrated circuits IC0, IC1 ... ICn-1, and ICn connected through buses 100-0, 100-1, ... 100-n-1, and 100-n. In a truncated ring, the ring is allowed to stay open to allow future expansion of the system by adding more integrated circuits and optionally closing the ring. At least until the ring is closed through inclusion of additional integrated circuits, the integrated circuits immediately next to truncation region 104 can communicate only in the direction opposite truncation region 104. Accordingly, at least busses 100-1 and 100-n-1 are bi-directional while the ring is open. In some embodiments, all chips communicate bi-directionally. In other embodiments, chips communicate unidirectional as much as possible. Other embodiments may include a combination of unidirectional and bi-directional signaling." (Emphasis added.)

Claim 1 has been amended to explicitly recite this feature.

By contrast, IBM states at page 2:

The system has advantages in that data, available to all terminals directly from the common bus units (terminals), can be added or removed **without altering bus network structure**; ...." (Emphasis added.)

Claim 1 and IBM are substantially different. In claim 1, the network structure is very different when the ring is open as compared to when it is closed. By contrast, as quoted above, in IBM, terminals "can be added or removed **without** altering bus network structure."

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-10 are dependent on claim 1 and are allowable for at least that reason.

Claim 11 recites a pseudo ring created by data flow of bi-directional signaling. The

application explains at page 7, lines 26-27:

"In the case of system 100, the physical bus is **not a ring**, but through bi-directional signally, a pseudo-ring can be created by dataflow in either direction." (Emphasis added.)

IBM says nothing about making a ring from a non-ring structure. Note that the Office action, p. 3, states IBM says the UARTs are in a ring topology. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 11 should be withdrawn.

Claims 12-19 are dependent on claim 11 and are allowable for at least that reason.

Claim 20 recites: "a group of integrated circuits connected in a pseudo differential arrangement in which multiple conductors carrying signals share a common reference signal conductor." (Emphasis added.)

An example of the common reference signal is shown in FIGS. 7 and 8 of the application at conductor 78 and description of these figures on page 6 of the application.

The Office action, p. 4, states the "UARTs are connecting to each other through a common bus." However, claim 20 states they share a common reference signal. A common reference signal is not a common bus.

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 20 should be withdrawn.

Claims 21-28 are dependent on claim 11 and are allowable for at least that reason.

Note there are reasons for patentability in addition to those listed above.

Respectfully submitted,

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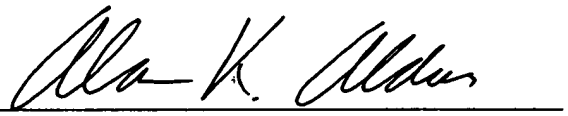

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